

AN ACT

RELATING TO PROCUREMENT; RAISING THE THRESHOLD FOR SMALL PURCHASES IN THE PROCUREMENT CODE; AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 13-1-104 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 65, Section 77, as amended) is amended to read:

"13-1-104. COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS--PUBLIC NOTICE.--

A. An invitation for bids or a notice thereof shall be published not less than ten calendar days prior to the date set forth for the opening of bids. In the case of purchases made by the state purchasing agent, the invitation or notice shall be published at least once in at least three newspapers of general circulation in this state; in addition, an invitation or notice may be published electronically on the state purchasing agent's web site that is maintained for that purpose. In the case of purchases made by other central purchasing offices, the invitation or notice shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the area in which the central purchasing office is located. These requirements of publication are in addition to any other procedures that may be adopted by central purchasing offices to notify prospective bidders that bids will be received, including publication in a trade journal, if available. If

there is no newspaper of general circulation in the area in which the central purchasing office is located, such other notice may be given as is commercially reasonable.

B. Central purchasing offices shall send copies of the notice or invitation for bids involving the expenditure of more than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to those businesses that have signified in writing an interest in submitting bids for particular categories of items of tangible personal property, construction and services and that have paid any required fees. A central purchasing office may set different registration fees for different categories of services, construction or items of tangible personal property, but such fees shall be related to the actual, direct cost of furnishing copies of the notice or invitation for bids to the prospective bidders. The fees shall be used exclusively for the purpose of furnishing copies of the notice or invitation for bids of proposed procurements to prospective bidders.

C. A central purchasing office may satisfy the requirement of sending copies of a notice or invitation for bids by distributing the documents to prospective bidders through electronic media. Central purchasing offices shall not require that prospective bidders receive a notice or invitation for bids through electronic media.

D. As used in this section, "prospective bidders" includes persons considering submission of a bid as a general

contractor for the construction contract and persons who may submit bids to a general contractor for work to be subcontracted pursuant to the construction contract. Central purchasing offices shall make copies of invitations for bids for construction contracts available to prospective bidders. A central purchasing office may require prospective bidders who have requested documents for bid on a construction contract to pay a deposit for a copy of the documents for bid. The deposit shall equal the full cost of reproduction and delivery of the documents for bid. The deposit, less delivery charges, shall be refunded if the documents for bid are returned in usable condition within the time limits specified in the documents for bid, which time limits shall be no less than ten calendar days from the date of the bid opening. All forfeited deposits shall be credited to the funds of the applicable central purchasing office."

Section 2. Section 13-1-125 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1984, Chapter 65, Section 98, as amended) is amended to read:

"13-1-125. SMALL PURCHASES.--

A. A central purchasing office shall procure services, construction or items of tangible personal property having a value not exceeding twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) in accordance with the applicable small purchase regulations adopted by the secretary, a local public body or a central purchasing office that has the authority to issue regulations.

B. Notwithstanding the requirements of Subsection A of this section, a central purchasing office may procure professional services having a value not exceeding thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000), excluding applicable state and local gross receipts taxes, except for the services of architects, landscape architects, engineers or surveyors for state public works projects or local public works projects, in accordance with professional services procurement regulations promulgated by the department of finance and administration, the general services department or a central purchasing office with the authority to issue regulations.

C. Notwithstanding the requirements of Subsection A of this section, a state agency or a local public body may procure services, construction or items of tangible personal property having a value not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) by issuing a direct purchase order to a contractor based upon the best obtainable price.

D. Procurement requirements shall not be artificially divided so as to constitute a small purchase under this section."

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2005. _____